

# THE MISSIONARY HELPER,

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY,

BY THE

Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society.

"FREELY YE HAVE RECEIVED, FREELY GIVE."—*Matt. 10: 8.*

Vol. I.

MAY, 1878.

No. 3.

AN urgent appeal comes again to us. Our young colored sisters at Harper's Ferry are in need. In the January number appeared an article from the pen of Miss Brackett, relating to the Girl's Boarding Hall. In this number we reproduce from the *Morning Star* another by Mrs. Hills, which amply sets forth the necessities of the case. The demand is no ordinary one, the cause is most worthy. Let each one make this an individual matter. Let each Sabbath school have the blessed privilege of contributing, and each auxiliary society see to it that its part is borne. Let no one fail in duty now!

Some of us, my sisters, God has greatly blessed. Our husbands, sons and brothers came back to us from the terrible war through which the bondmen gained their liberty. Have we made our full thank-offering? Do we not remember the vows of service we made on bended knees? God does not call us to "die" to make these sisters "free." He asks only a little service, a little denial of self, it may be, to help them up toward the possibilities of a soul made in his own image. He died for us. Blood-bought, what shall we render unto him?

The Woman's Society is asked to lay the corner-stone on May 30th, the floral day of the nation. What more fitting tribute could we bring than an offering to this structure!

## THE WOMAN'S SOCIETY A NECESSITY.\*

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DOES any one honestly ask if the success of this Society has been gained at the expense of our other benevolent interests? We do not wonder that those who are endeavoring to build up the Home and Foreign Mission Societies should look askant at anything which seems to them like a parasite preying upon their borders in the hour of their greatest need, nor do *we* wish to build upon the sentimental idea that, because we are women, chivalry requires men to encourage us. We ought, rather, in a true spirit to show good reasons why we exist as a Society.

Whether our present efforts tend to diminish or to increase the funds which have before flowed into other channels, is not the true test of the worthiness of this object. Its real merit rests upon another basis. For, if it be worthy of a name to live, its plans and aims should be so distinct that its existence is a *necessity*. We regard it as an educator in giving, as a power for kindling enthusiasm among the young, and as a means of developing the strength of woman. As such, it is doing a work which does not enter largely into the plans of other benevolent societies, the influence of which work will be felt by them and the whole church through all future years.

Too many times, raising the apportionments fixed by the mission societies has been the only thing done in the churches. This is not enough. More than giving, more than doing, is the spirit we put into our service for others. God has commanded us to love Him with all our hearts, and at the same time He gave the command, like unto it, to love our neighbor as ourselves. Our love should be broad enough to take in the whole world, and deep enough to call forth the best service we can render. We should know no limits to our charities, and our prayers should

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\*This paper is the closing part of the admirable report of our Home Secretary. It was reserved for this issue and we are sure that it has lost nothing by delay.

include the uttermost bounds of the earth. To lift up the holy standard of doing for others *from love*, is our work, Christian women ; a work the results of which will not be estimated by the amount of money we gather into our treasury, but all benevolent organizations will be benefited by it.

The Woman's Society is admirably adapted to the work of educating the church in this loving service for others. The two cents a week system constitutes a woman a member of an organized auxiliary society, which is expected to meet monthly for work, to disseminate missionary intelligence and a missionary spirit. Besides this, there should be a public meeting quarterly, aiming to interest the whole church. Such work cannot fail to open channels of beneficence in other directions, and churches with such societies will soon find it easier to raise their apportionments. But more than a well-planned society is needed. It must be vitalized by women who have the true spirit to put into their work ; by women who recognize something beyond money, counting it of more value to receive into this treasury just the woman's mite, if it is given as unto God, followed by earnest prayers, than a hundred times as much to be "seen of men," or simply as a money transaction. The more they depend upon God, believing He can and will move souls to render a service acceptable to Him, the more glorious will be their success.

Let it ever be our aim to raise the standard of doing for others *from love*. It should be the chief corner-stone of this Society. *Nothing can take its place.* Oh ! for this spirit, voicing itself in prayer, to be felt throughout our borders. God stands ready, with abundant resources, with intense longings to save His children, and yet depending upon human instrumentalities through which to work. Shall we not be loyal to His commands, and loving and trustful in our spirits? Doing it, we shall be of inestimable service to the denomination and a helper in every other mission enterprise which belongs to it.

We have, too, the very best material in the church from which such a spirit can be developed. Its real merit should not be overlooked. We refer to the children.

The law which makes it necessary to commence their moral and intellectual training in early life also applies to every part of their religious life. Ten cents means as much to them as ten dollars to those of older years. And to teach them to give it systematically, because it pleases their Heavenly Father and from love for others, will fix principles which will govern them in later years. Who can do this work so well as woman? The women's societies are gathering them in by thousands. As their numbers increase the future prospects of these societies brighten; for they will fill the places of present toilers when they have laid down the work. More than this, the parent societies will be stronger; for many thus trained in youth will fill *their* ranks by-and-by, and prove their truest and noblest defenders.

We cannot put too high an estimate upon this labor among the children. As Christian women let us clothe with true dignity a work which has the Master's approval, inasmuch as He said, "Suffer them to come unto me and forbid them not." Let them swell our ranks and here find a school to train and fit them for Christian labor. Out of it will come many imbued with that true womanly nature which it is the aim of this society to develop.

Again, if we do not mistake our mission, it is primarily to uplift and strengthen woman. The time is at hand when her holiest ambition will be to become a *true* woman, resting in God as an individual existence. Whatever else has been the ruling motive of her life will be secondary. In her will reside beauty and strength combined.

The tree in the open field, exposed to tempests that toughen its boughs so that they sway but never break, with room enough for the roots to take deep hold upon the soil and stretch out their fibers in every direction, has a beauty and strength of which the tree of the thickly grown forest can never boast. So woman and man alike need the growth of the open field, meeting with full trust in God whatever discipline is best for them, and assuming whatever responsibility He puts upon them. This gives a beauty and strength to character which never come to those who depend entirely upon others, or are absorbed into them. Such man-

hood and womanhood the church needs to-day. Especially the woman element is wanting. To be truly helpful to the church, she needs to be more a part of it and less absorbed into it. The Sunday school, the prayer meeting, the society and mission enterprises need to have the highest possibilities of her nature developed. So, any organization which will aid in this work is a necessary element of the denominational life. What a grand opportunity the Woman's Mission Society affords for educating women, only the future will fully unfold. It is her own; whatever powers of planning or executing she possesses may be exercised in making it a success. It is broad enough in its aims to call out her love for the world, and godlike enough in its spirit to kindle a faith that will remove mountains and make all things possible. Having no paid laborers to do the work, it is divided and subdivided until every woman, who will, may assume some of the responsibility and prove what such work will do for her.

Already we catch glimpses of what such societies are doing. Says Mrs. Knight, a worker in the Congregationalist Woman's Missionary Society, "Even in our short experience, the training which our Christian women are gaining is very marked,—a training in self-poise, well-put thought, and concerted action, the need of which, Christ, the church, and the times are rapidly unfolding." Miss Willard, whose opportunity for observing the practical workings of these societies in the different parts of our country is greater than those of almost any other woman, says: "I firmly believe that the reflex influence of missionary societies on the women of the churches is of incalculable value in cultivating Christian activity, business habits, thought and intelligence." These results of a work so recent in its origin are but the foreshadowing of its future glory. Many a worker will here catch an inspiration of a nobler womanhood than she has ever known, one which will lift the church to a higher plane in all branches of Christian endeavor."

But all that can be done for women in America will only be the reflex influence of doing for women in a lower condition of life everywhere. Like the benumbed traveler, who is warmed and saved by doing for one who cannot care for himself, so we



may have life more abundantly by helping those whose condition is worse than our own. Millions of such are reaching out their hands for help. Their cry has entered the ear of the God of heaven and He is answering back through the women of America to-day. How well adapted are the means He uses to the work to be done. Who can kindle hope in the hearts of women bound down by oppression and ignorance, like those who, by all the ties of nature, are in sympathy with them? Who can arouse their ambition like those who of like natures have been elevated to a higher plane both mentally and spiritually? Emphatically it is *woman's work for woman*. Who can question but that it is God's method to save that portion of life made in His own image which is sunk so low? Through the gospel, He is bringing her back to the womanhood He had in view when she was created. As His appointment, we accept it to-day. With its distinctive features made prominent by our home workers, we are confident the time is at hand when the whole church will recognize the Woman's Missionary Society as one of God's means for evangelizing the world, and equal in importance to any other.

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## GIRLS' BOARDING HALL, HARPER'S FERRY.

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A WAILING, almost agonizing cry comes to us in behalf of our colored sisters in our Southern mission field.

Free Baptists will remember the dark days of slavery when Southern laws made it a crime punishable with fine, imprisonment, and in some cases, death, to teach a colored person, even if he were free, to read God's blessed Book. How we agonized in prayer. God heard. He brake the fetters. He removed the barriers. In his wonderful providence he handed over the care of the freed people of Maryland, West Virginia and the northern part of old Virginia to the Free Baptists, saying, educate, elevate, Christianize these lowly ones for me. It was soon found impracticable to supply this large field with white teach-

ers, and also that competent colored instructors could do the work more effectively. Hence Storer Normal School, which to-day is the only school in all that region for training teachers for the colored people. At the commencement of its existence, the "stronger sex" were provided with a Boarding Hall, while the "weaker" (?) were left to find shelter as best they could. Poorly clad, eking out their lives on the scantiest fare, six, or perhaps more, living, cooking and sleeping in one room, yet, in their great thankfulness for the priceless privilege of mental culture so long denied them, they have bravely and patiently borne their discomforts and privations, while eagerly and persistently acquiring the needed knowledge to fit themselves for educators of their race.

More and more these freed young women crowded this fount of learning. The white inhabitants were not disposed to rent them rooms, and the necessity for increased accommodations became so pressing, that some five, perhaps more years ago, a movement was made to provide a Boarding Hall that would accommodate one hundred girls. The basement was finished and nearly enough brick burned to put up the walls, and then the building fund was exhausted. The committee in charge dared not incur a debt, and so the work was stayed. At length, words of encouragement and promise of further aid from that noble philanthropist and friend of the slave, Hon. Gerrit Smith, cheered the weary toilers at Harper's Ferry, and they rejoiced with great joy in the bright prospect of the speedy accomplishment of their enterprise. But alas! for human hopes. Almost immediately, like a clap of thunder in a clear sky, came the stunning intelligence that Storer Normal School had lost one of its best friends and patrons, Gerrit Smith had been suddenly summoned to his heavenly home. The "hard times" were come, other denominational claims were pressed upon our attention, and the pressing need of these lowly women seemed forgotten. Meanwhile, the disappointed workers have nobly borne the accumulated burden, and the record of their labors of love is on high.

Last year, another effort was made through the Sabbath

schools and the Centennial Jubilee Singers, to raise \$5,000, the sum required to finish the Hall. But this has resulted in securing only about \$1,500, and now the time has come to commence the work, in order to make the building available for use before another cold season. So there comes from the circumstances of the case, to the Free Baptist Woman's Mission Society, a piteous call for \$1,000, a sum which added to the \$1,500 on hand will put up the walls, and put on the roof. The building then, even in this unfinished state will shelter the girls and afford great relief. The committee, still determined not to incur a debt, dare not move till the thousand dollars are assured.

Recently one of our District Secretaries, who had been in correspondence with the burden bearers at Harper's Ferry, hastily convened such of the members of the Woman's Board of Missions as were within call, and laid before them the facts connected with the present perplexing crisis of the work. Still more and more the colored girls have come and are coming, constantly adding to the discomforts of the past, till the inconveniences are almost beyond endurance. The Christ-like hearts of the noble teachers—God bless them—could not send them back, so they have given up their own rooms for the girls' use, till they have crowded themselves and their families into very uncomfortable nooks. The Principal and his wife are obliged to share their sleeping apartment with four members of their own family. Miss Brackett, assistant teacher, lives with her brother, but goes out at night to share a bed with a neighboring friend. The District Secretary, whose voice at times choked with emotion, as she stated these and other facts, said: "The money is the Lord's, and if we will have faith, how easily he can open the hearts of his people to furnish it." A season of prayer was then held for divine guidance in devising and executing plans for speedily securing the needed thousand dollars. A discussion of measures followed, and among others, it was decided to obtain by correspondence, the endorsement of all the members of the Board to the plan of co-operating with the friends of Storer Normal School in raising this thousand dollars as soon as possible. A majority have already responded heartily in sympathy.



About 150 students have already gone out from this school as Christian teachers, besides a goodly number of preachers ; but what are these among so many ! Those, who make their way to the Normal School, are from the more energetic, enterprising class, who see, and in some degree, comprehend the terrible needs of that ignorant, slavery-degraded race.

Who will give \$500 ?—\$200 ?—\$100 ?—\$50 ?—\$20 ?—\$10 ?—\$5 ?—\$1 ? or even a smaller sum ? sending it as you choose, either to Miss L. A. DeMeritte, Dover, N. H., Treasurer of the Woman's Mission Society, or if you prefer to Rev. N. C. Brackett, Harper's Ferry, West Virginia.

In behalf of the F. B. Woman's Miss. Society.

MRS. M. M. H. HILLS.

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## UNSIFTED.

BY MRS. E. C. JENNESS.

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A FEW straws by the wayside attracted my attention,—in gathering them some ripened grain was found, which I bring unsifted from the chaff as an humble offering to the HELPER.

A missionary in a letter to the children writes : " No, father will not stay in C. two years and not pity the good people of America who have not the privilege of telling the heathen about Jesus." Words like these come from the sunny side and call those blessed who are laboring for the *Master* in foreign lands. Many persons talk and pray as though the missionaries had bidden adieu to all the bright, the happiness of earth, that henceforth life must be to them as one long, gloomy day.

If letters from friends in India are rightly understood, this is not so. Their work is a glorious one, from which there is no wish for rest nor release. The fields before them are ready for the harvest ; toiling with all their might, the daily prayer is that He will send forth laborers into the harvest. Such prayers will be answered—help will come—for God has promised it.

In many parts of our country the friends of the Home Mission are nobly responding to the plea for aid. Words of good cheer are heard on all sides.

A lady in one of the larger cities sends extracts from her journal the past week. From Monday, when eighty-three calls were made upon the poor, to the close, the one theme is, "Rest not while the day lasts."

A church has just announced "twenty-nine thousand dollars taken as their annual collection for the Home Mission work, and had not finished yet."

The little band at Harper's Ferry are taking courage; already the pennies given for them have brought down a twofold blessing—the mites are preparing the way for the dollars—for giving is receiving—"good measure pressed down."

When faith and love dwell in the heart there is no room for doubt and fears.

Wanted—that faith that asks and does receive—that love that never counts *anything* a sacrifice that is given to Jesus—be it only a cup of cold water, or all—even *all our living*.

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## A MODEL CHILDREN'S MISSIONARY MEETING.

BY MRS. J. BURNHAM DAVIS.

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The following communication from Mrs. Davis we are very glad to publish. The method which she has adopted is truly a model one.

As several persons, from different States, have written me asking information concerning the Mission Band in this place, I take the liberty to answer all these inquiries, at once, through the *MISSIONARY HELPER*. I claim no originality in our plan of working for the following schedule I cut from the *Morning Star*, many months since, as an item for my scrap-book, feeling sure as I did so, that I should find it of service at some future time.

The band should have a Directress, who is a grown up lady, who shall have general oversight of the society, and shall open the meetings with Bible reading and prayer. The other officers shall be chosen, a boy and girl, alternately. Every member takes part in the meetings, as appointed. The meetings of the

band should be held promptly, and never exceed one hour in length. The members of the band should be divided into companies for systematic work ; such work to be assigned by committees. The companies may be designated as follows :

Co. 1. Those who pray, sing and give. (All.) Co. 2. Reporters, one boy and one girl. These are to tell the subject for the month and give any information about it they can. Co. 3. Writers, one boy and one girl. To bring in essays on subjects assigned by the committee. Co. 4. Readers, one boy and one girl. To read letters, or choice and short selections on any missionary subjects they choose. Co. 5. Illustrators, one boy and one girl. These are to bring in any pictures, curiosities, &c., they can possibly obtain, to throw light on customs and habits of the country under consideration. Co. 6. Map-makers, one boy and one girl. These are to supply us with a map of the field we are studying ; either make or borrow it. Co. 7. Geographers. These are to bound and describe the country. Co. 8. Historians. These are to give as much as possible of the country or mission considered. Co. 9. Story-tellers. These are to relate missionary incidents of their own selection. Co. 10. Poets. To recite missionary poetry. Co. 11. Item givers, including all not embraced in the above mentioned companies ; ending with a hymn and parting verse of Scripture."

The above is the basis of our programme for each meeting, but we vary it to suit our own convenience.

We find it to our advantage, however, to adhere to one rule very closely, namely, not to prolong our meetings more than one hour. We propose to study all fields of missionary labor, so far as it may lie in our power. We have already studied with profit our own mission, the Micronesian, and also that to the Mountain Nestorians. The interest in these meetings has been very gratifying. Our present number is forty-five, of ages varying from four to twenty. A small badge of blue ribbon, with the words "Mission Band" printed upon it in German Text, is received with much favor and worn upon the left shoulder of each member. In December Miss Julia E. Phillips was with us for a few days, and while here the band gave a Missionary Entertainment, with a programme of facts concerning our own mission, interspersed with recitations, singing and "Illustrations of Life in India." A full house greeted the children and a good collection rewarded them.

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Since the last issue we learn that new auxiliaries are organized in South Parsonsfield, South Limington, and West Falmouth, Maine.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MRS. J. PHILLIPS, DANTOON, INDIA.

"THE MISSIONARY HELPER," the first born of the "Woman's Board," came to our wigwam this week, and most gladly do we welcome "the little one," and heartily do we bid it God speed on its mission of love among the Christian women of our beloved Zion. May it carry light, conviction and truth to every home it may visit. May it cheer and encourage the toilers in the field of well doing, arouse the lukewarm, and awaken to life and action those who are asleep in Zion.

Could our good sisters see the ignorance, degradation and want that stare us in the face at every turn, they would spend far more time in the Master's service, and much less on themselves. How I wish that all who bear the name of the meek and lowly Jesus, "who pleased not Himself," would come out from the world and live in a manner that would carry with them a savor of Christ wherever they go. Many may suffer unavailing regrets because they have not followed Christ more fully. Could the indifferent ones, the self-seeking ones, but once taste the real sweet of living for Christ and for His poor outcast ones, nothing could persuade them to return to the husks of fashionable life, or a life of ease, luxury and self-seeking. It is those who suffer with Christ here, who will reign with Him in His glorious kingdom above.

We have been occupying this mud hut for two months, and must continue to do so for about as much longer. The one room the hut contains is twenty-five feet by eleven, and this answers all the purposes of living except cooking. This is done in a little mat shanty about six feet square, the fire-place in which is a trench dug in the ground, with sun-dried bricks laid across to divide it and also to support the kettles. Our new bungalow is going up pretty fast, and we may have the roof on inside of two months,

but it will require three or four months to finish it. We shall only wait for the roof, and occupy a part while the masons finish other rooms.

The people all about us seem very friendly, and very glad to have us settle among them. I have been called to visit the sick in a number of families of the higher class. There is work here on every hand, and I long to be in it, but this bronchial difficulty, that has kept me silent the greater part of the year, still clings to me, though I am much better than I was two months ago.

During the past month my dear husband has been very ill, but is much better.

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#### ZENANA WOMEN.

THE gospel, so recently carried into the zenanas of India, is surely beginning to make inroads on the cruel custom, which, for the ages past, has imprisoned within their gloomy walls the women of the higher castes or classes. Says Mrs. Bacher in a recent letter from Midnapore: "I want to tell you what a nice time we had last evening. Six native ladies came to see us. I sent a *covered* carriage for them. Three were Christians and go to our chapel on Sunday. Annie Sen (zenana teacher) was another, but two of them were zenana ladies. One of them never before went out in that way, and the other only three weeks ago came here for the first time. Four of the zenana teachers came too, making with daughter Mary and myself a party of twelve. We sang Bengali hymns, read the 8th chapter of Matthew, (a verse around), and had a good deal of talk about it, in which all joined. I offered prayer, followed by two of the native ladies and Mary. I can't tell you how sweet it all was. The two zenana ladies are seekers; their large black eyes sparkled as if under a kind of inspiration. I was greatly helped in telling them that the same loving Saviour could and would heal the leprosy of sin and make our souls all clean. We had only in faith to ask him to do it. They were very nicely and richly dressed and ornamented. Before they came I was feeling prostrated and exhausted, but the visit has made me over new."



## NOVA SCOTIA WORK.

At a session of the Free Baptist Conference, held at Caledonia, September, 1875, we were favored with a short visit from our returned missionaries Dr. J. L. and Miss Julia Phillips, at which time the subject of organizing a Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was introduced by Miss Phillips. A meeting was called and officers appointed. As the session was nearly at a close on their arrival we had not time for more. Several ladies pledged themselves to attend to the matter of forming auxiliaries on their return home.

At our first anniversary, held at Port Medway, September, 1876, thirteen Auxiliary Societies were reported, and funds amounting to \$180.37, which was voted to the salary of Miss Phillips.

At our second anniversary, held at Clark's Harbor, September, 1877, we were able to report twenty-four Auxiliary Societies, and funds amounting to \$398.34, \$243 of which was appropriated to the salary of Miss Phillips, and \$50 for Zenana work in India.

At each one of those meetings we have been greatly helped and cheered by having Miss Phillips with us, and her earnest pleading words, together with those of Dr. J. L. Phillips, in behalf of those now sitting in darkness, has, I trust, awakened an interest that will remain when they shall be in far off India.

A society has recently been organized at Bear Point with fourteen members, and good prospects of more. The church is small, but the sisters are in earnest; already they are planning for a Children's Band. May God bless them in their work. We need the children.

A sister from Cape Island writes: "We are preparing for a public meeting."

And from Halifax the word comes: "We are steadily advancing in our Foreign Mission work." One sister writes: "I get so discouraged, times are dull, money scarce, and the people seem so indifferent." Ah! is not the latter the greatest cause? "The silver and the gold are mine." Shall we rob God? If money is scarce, shall we not deny self, and sacrifice for Him who gave his life so freely for us?

We are very, very thankful for the "MISSIONARY HELPER," and believe it is destined to be all that its name implies.

We are pleased to have the honor of supporting Miss Julia Phillips, but hope the day is not far distant when some one from our own Province with heart consecrated to the work, will say, "Here am I, send me."

MRS. R. H. CROWELL.

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

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The subscription list of the *HELPER* now reaches almost nineteen hundred.

Mrs. E. D. Jordan, of Portland, Maine, writes, and we are very glad to receive such communications: "Miss Julia Phillips has met with our woman's society twice during this year, and each time we have been inspired by her to continue our work with new courage and perseverance. One of our members has supported one of Miss Crawford's village teachers for two years. The society has now engaged to support a zenana teacher, and we hope to do much general work beside. Regular monthly meetings are held. Our last was in the audience room of the church. After a few general exercises by the young women, we listened with great interest to the words of Miss Phillips. We trust that some among our young people had a purpose implanted in them, which shall result in a life devoted to service in India.

This our Woman's Magazine is indeed our "*Missionary Helper*." Our list of subscribers is but twenty-eight, but we mean to increase it here to fifty. Four years ago a few of our Sunday school scholars adopted an orphan girl of Miss Crawford's. They have paid twenty dollars per year regularly during that time. At the beginning of this year three other classes of children joined them in their work. On the afternoon of April 13th these little ones were organized into a Band of Seed-sowers. The seeds are the pennies, and they have sown during these first three months of the year nearly eight hundred."

We take great pleasure in recommending "*Good Times*," a monthly magazine edited by Mrs. M. E. Slade, as especially adapted for use in Sunday school concerts, temperance and missionary meetings. Mission bands will find it a valuable help. Price, \$1.00 per annum. For "*Good Times*," please address, Mrs. J. M. Brewster, Providence, R. I.

It is stated on reliable authority that there are no less than eighty thousand widows in India under *six years of age*! Add to this the fact that they must remain in widowhood as long as they live, subjected to the cruelest treatment. Is not this enough to touch the tenderest cord in every mother's heart, impelling her to cry to God in their behalf, and to do her utmost to relieve them? Christian mothers, you have the power to send light and comfort to these thousands of suffering little ones. Will you do it?

Miss Crawford has prepared a geography of sixty-three pages in the Oriya language.

"Substantial responses have already been made to the plea for Harper's Ferry. One minister has given fifty dollars, one lady twenty-five, two ladies ten each, four ladies five each; one of our missionaries, now in India, pledges ten dollars, another lady, in an adjoining State, has secured some more than fifty dollars. Cash and pledges now amount to nearly two hundred dollars, nor does this include what is being done at Harper's Ferry. Word comes that the students there have caught an inspiration from this new movement, and are trying to raise fifty dollars, which, with Mr. Brackett's pledge, will make another hundred." Other work presses. Let us have these walls up.

A good friend of missions in the town of ———, in Maine, writes: "Mrs. C. our Secretary (after hearing a talk on missions,) said to me, '*I am interested all through me*, why I never heard anything that thrilled me so.' She had never heard a missionary discourse before. Two years ago I asked her to give me her name for a dollar a year, but she thought she could not in view of her little family wants. Now, with increasing wants, she can give to the cause. Light upon the subject was all she needed." — There are thousands in this land, warm-hearted Christian women, who need this and nothing more to open their eyes to the necessities of the poor, degraded women in India. Will not every subscriber of the *HELPER* lend each number to some one who is uninterested now, and thus win them to the ranks of the workers?

We wish to call the attention of our readers to the article in the *Niche* written by one of the girls from Harpers' Ferry. This is a specimen of the training in this school. We do not think many young ladies whose earlier advantages have been much more favorable than hers would have written a more interesting sketch. Investments in this school are not lost; rather they pay large dividends. One of the missionaries in the Valley once said, and her sympathy was not circumscribed, that one dollar given here was as valuable as five given to some other benevolent causes. Let those who are chary of their dollars note this. Shall we not have the thousand dollars? Dare we hold in our hand what is not ours? "The silver and the gold are mine," saith the Lord.

A meeting to be held in Boston some time in May is proposed, at which short historical sketches of all the Woman's Missionary Societies in the country may be presented. These sketches will embrace any interesting facts in regard to the organization of missionary societies, the relation they bear to the general missionary society, their distinctive work, and why a separate organization. Such a meeting cannot but be most beneficial in its influence.

In our last number we imposed a heavy tax on the young ladies in the Seminary at New Hampton. We meant to tax two cents a week during term time instead of ten cents. No doubt some of them would gladly give the ten.

# Children's Niche.

## THE CHILDREN'S PENNIES.

'Twas a Sabbath morn, and the house of God  
Was filled with a happy band,  
Of young and old, who sought to learn  
The way to the better land.

And the pastor told of the needy ones,  
Far over the waters blue,  
Who had never heard of the love of God,  
Of Jesus never knew.

Then the box was passed, and the offerings  
came,  
And many an eye beamed bright,  
As the little hands of the children dropped  
So eagerly their mite.

And the pennies laughed, and joyful said,  
"We'll fly at the peep of day,  
And bear the words of life and love,  
To the poor ones far away."

So, swiftly over the hills and dales,  
Ay, over the waters blue,  
To cheer the hearts of God's needy ones,  
The children's pennies flew.

And Jesus looked with a smiling glance,  
At the little ones, I ween,  
For every generous, kindly act,  
His loving eyes have seen.

—Iola.

## WORK IN A MARYLAND VILLAGE.

Class No. 7, in Casco Street Sunday school, Portland, Me., has been sending its spare *Myrtles*, *Little Stars* and other papers to the destitute children among the freedmen in Maryland and Virginia. The following is a letter to this class, written by one of our teachers among the colored people. She is a young girl seventeen years old, a graduate of Storer Normal School. In this letter she describes one of the places where the papers have been sent, and the manner in which they are received.

E. D. J.

### MY DEAR CHILDREN :

Knoxville is a small village in the western part of Maryland, quite a pleasant place surrounded by hills and mountains.

Looking out on either side, you see a part of the Alleghany Range, here only a short distance off and there many miles away, stretching dimly along as far as the eye can reach. And to make the scene still more lovely, the Potomac River goes gliding by, rippling and dancing in the sunlight. I think you would like to go there fishing, or setting traps for the muskrats, that have their homes in the small islands or on the shore.

But, perhaps, what would interest you most of all, is the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, where the boats go up and down all day long. See! here comes one now. There is the driver, a little distance ahead of the boat. Look at those poor mules, how they tug at the line, and are almost ready to stop from fatigue, but the driver gives them an encouraging pat, as he lifts his brimless hat to say "good mornin." Now look at the boat itself, see those merry children playing on deck, and that pleasant faced woman sewing at the little red and white curtained window! It is late in the day, but here in the middle cabin is a young man fast-asleep. He must be the tow-boy who has been driving half the night, and is now napping to make up lost sleep. But do not think that all the boats are thus clean and orderly, or all the drivers so kind to the mules. Sometimes you will hear them curse the poor beasts, and they will beat them so dreadfully you will turn away sick at the sight. The captain is liable to be rough in turn with the drivers, and oftentimes the tow-boys get flogged awfully. Think you my young friends, you would like to lead such a life, having your home on a canal winter and summer? for many families stay on these boats all the winter, wherever they happen to be when the canal freezes over. But I have a kindly feeling for these people, some of them are my scholars, and often with tears in my eyes I watch these boats, breathing a prayer that these poor boys and young men may not grow up hardened in sin.

Leaving the canal and entering the village on the east side, we see a large brick building; there are numerous piles of cinders around, in many shapes and colors. I think you would not object to having some in your cabinets. The building, though



not now in operation, is a refining furnace, where iron is refined ; the ore is plentiful near here. If we had time to go up on the furnace or tunnel head, we could see many miles away into Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

Crossing the railroad which goes right through the village, we soon come to a stone church. Knoxville has three white churches, and I was about to say one colored one, but I fear you would hardly give the name of church to the place where our meetings are held. It is an old mill,—there is plenty of room inside, but it is very cold in winter. The benches are rude, unpainted affairs, minus backs, and the cold, rough and rain-bespattered walls present anything but a cheerful appearance. Yet, I doubt not, the Lord often smiles upon the assembly gathered here. Many of them have told me with beaming faces, that they become so happy here they forget all about the cold. I think you would like to come to some of our meetings and hear the singing and praying.

But we must hurry, or small as it is we shall not get through Knoxville. Hastily we pass dwelling-houses, a hotel, two stores and the post-office. But don't, oh ! don't pass this little log building, because it looks desolate and lone ! Just a few steps from the road-side, the canal several yards in the rear, with a gurgling, clear little brook running by its side, stands my school-house, the house we have been trying to reach. How long have I taught here ? One year only before this, and I have twenty-seven pupils. The school is always small before Christmas, when the larger ones who have been at work come in. Now let us take a look at these children. Did you ever visit a colored school before ? It is Friday afternoon, the lessons have all been said, and as the bell is tapped every book is laid aside. The arms are folded, and many pairs of bright eyes are directed toward my table. Then I read a story and talk about it until they thoroughly understand it. Oftentimes the story, which these children enjoy so much, is read from one of the papers which you are so kind as to send me. I then remind the children of the Sabbath school, and when some of them grieve because their clothes are not better, I tell them to come clean and

whole, and God will not mind the coarse patched dress or coat if the heart is right. Then with a polite bow and smiling faces they all file out on their way home. I wish we could follow them to their homes, and let you see what they are like. But I will tell you a short story that you may know over what rough ways many of these children come to school. One of my pupils, a little girl seven years old, had the measles. One day I started to find her, and I was astonished at the long rough road that little one had to travel to school. I had to cross fields and fences before we came to the neat log-building quite on the mountain. Ellie's mother, who held an infant in her arms, greeted me warmly. A boy of five years was wofully guarding a couch in the farther corner of the room, on which little Ellie was lying. Her cheeks were glowing with fever, and her little hands felt hot and parched as I took them in my own and smoothed back the long jetty hair from her forehead. Then I gave her two of your papers; her eyes fairly danced as she took them. Though only seven she reads beautifully in the Third Reader, and no man of business enjoys the daily news more than she does these papers. I am told that she actually takes them to bed with her.

Now, last, I will tell you of our Sabbath school. I have to be superintendent myself, besides being secretary and teacher. I have only one teacher to help me now during these fall months. Our number ranges from nine to thirty. The papers are a great help to me, I scarcely know how to thank my young Portland friends for them. Every third Sunday we have a minister with us, a tall, thin man, who has the care of three churches, yet he seems always ready to do something for Christ. The children generally learn verses from the Bible to repeat, and they sing with a zest that indicates strong lungs. We often have visitors, and I wish you might be among them. As I fear this letter is much too long, I will now say good bye to you for this time.

CORALIE L. FRANKLIN.

KNOXVILLE, Md.

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"We grow grander by what we do for those who cannot repay us."

GIVING SONG.

Tune—"THERE IS A HAPPY LAND."

Child of a Christian land,  
Give, freely give!  
On "India's coral strand"  
Poor heathen live!  
O! there are thousands now  
Who to wood and stone still bow;  
That they our God may know—  
Give, freely give!

This blessed Word of God,  
Give, freely give!  
This earth our Saviour trod  
That all might live—  
Shall we not help to make  
Meet his gifts and grace to take?  
O! then, for Jesus' sake  
Give, freely give!

SHARES IN MISS PHILLIPS' SALARY.

In addition to those mentioned in the last HELPER, the following shares have been taken. We hope other Sunday schools and mission bands will hasten to honor themselves by having a part in her support. It cannot be any other than a pleasant task. We want the eighty shares all taken before the middle of June.

Sunday School Roger Williams' Church, Prov., R. I.,	5	shares.
Mission Band, Lynn, Mass.,	2	"
Mission Band, Limerick, Me.,	2	"
Mission Band, Greenwich St. Ch., Prov., R. I.,	1	"

THE Greenville R. I. Mission Band held an interesting public meeting on the evening of March 7, at which they had recitations, dialogues, music, and scenes representing Life in India. They raised \$12 towards the \$25 which they are to pay on Miss Ida Phillips' salary. They have sent ten dollars' worth of new clothing to Harper's Ferry. The Band is now just a year old and begins its new year with a good prospect of greater success and usefulness.

Thefts never enrich—alms never impoverish—nor prayers hinder work.

## CONSTITUTION.

ART. 1.—This organization shall be called the Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society.

ART. 2.—Its object is to give the Christian religion and education to women destitute of Gospel light, by sending out and supporting female missionaries and teachers in fields occupied by Free Baptist missions, and for this purpose to enlist and unite the efforts of women in forming auxiliary societies in all our churches.

ART. 3.—The payment of \$1 per year shall constitute membership ; \$20 life membership ; and the payment of \$100 within the term of four years, shall constitute a lady an honorary manager for life.

ART. 4.—The officers of this Society shall be a President, five Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Home Secretary, a District Secretary for each Yearly Meeting, a Treasurer, an Auditor, a Committee on Missionary Intelligence, and a Board of Managers, consisting of the President, the Corresponding, Recording, and Home Secretaries, and thirteen other ladies. These officers shall be elected annually, and shall hold their offices till others are elected and qualified.

ART. 5.—The duties of the President, Vice-Presidents, and Recording Secretary, shall be such as are usually performed by such officers.

ART. 6.—The Home Secretary shall maintain correspondence with the various District Secretaries, endeavor through them and others to carry forward the work of the Society, and report to the Board annually.

ART. 7.—The District Secretaries shall labor to secure the formation of auxiliary societies in each church in their respective Yearly Meetings, by the appointment, if they choose, of Assistant Secretaries in each Quarterly Meeting, or by any other method they may deem most effective to carry forward the work, and shall report quarterly to the Home Secretary.

ART. 8.—The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the official correspondence with the missionaries, call meetings of the Board of Managers when she deems it necessary, or when requested by not less than five members of the Board.

ART. 9.—The Treasurer shall carefully credit all moneys received, and shall pay out none except by order of the Board of Managers. She shall also give bonds with security satisfactory to the Managers, in a sum not less than one-third the amount given by the Treasurer of the Free Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

ART. 10.—The Committee on Missionary Intelligence shall prepare, and publish for circulation, such items of news as it shall judge best calculated to promote the object of the Society.

ART. 11.—The Board of Managers shall select and appoint missionaries,

designate their field of labor, appropriate the funds in the treasury, fill vacancies in the offices of the Society, and execute such other business as may be necessary for accomplishing the object of the Society. Five may form a quorum. So far as relates to Foreign Mission work, this Board shall act in conjunction with the Free Baptist Foreign Mission Society; and so far as relates to Home Mission work, it shall act in conjunction with the Free Baptist Home Mission Society.

ART. 12.—This Society shall hold its annual meeting in October due notice of which shall be given by the Corresponding Secretary

ART. 13.—This Constitution may be altered at any regular meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, notice of which shall be previously given.

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CONSTITUTION FOR AUXILIARIES.

ART. 1.—The Society shall be called the Woman's Mission Society of \_\_\_\_\_ church, and shall be auxiliary to the Free Baptist Woman's Board of Missions.

ART. 2.—The officers of this Society shall be a President, Secretary, and Treasurer, chosen annually.

ART. 3.—Its object shall be the raising of money for missions, and the diffusion of missionary intelligence in the community

ART. 4.—The payment of two cents per week, or one dollar annually, shall constitute any lady a member of the Society.

ART. 5.—The money raised shall be sent to the Treasurer of the Woman's Board of Missions.

N. B.—Each auxiliary can make its own By-Laws for regulating and conducting its meetings.

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LIFE MEMBERS ADDED SINCE LAST YEAR'S REPORT.

Mrs. E. Boles.....Haverhill, Mass.	Mrs. M. F. Hopkins, Pascoag, R. I.
" B. Chandler.....Lewiston, Me.	" A. Lovejoy..... " "
" J. W. Carr....Ft. Fairfield, Me.	" J. L. Phillips. ... " "
" S. Curtis.....Concord, N. H.	Miss Julia E. Phillips. " "
" L. A. Cratty.....Marion, Ohio.	Mrs. O. Pitts.....Corinth, Me.
" E. B. Chamberlain.Dover, N. H.	" C. Paine.....Georgiaville, R. I.
" L. Dexter....Georgiaville, R. I.	Miss S. J. Payson. " "
Miss Augusta Dodge.....	Mrs. S. P. Richter.....Portland, Me.
Mrs. J. A. Dana....Ashland, N. H.	" Clara O. Smith.Concord, N. H.
" E. E. Davis..Minneapolis, Min.	" J. Sinclair..N. Sandwich, "
" E. Fiske.....Bristol, N. H.	" F. L. Wiley..Whitefield, "
" A. J. Fairbanks.Wolfboro, "	" R. B. Wares...Haverhill, Mass.
" H. M. L. Holland.Limerick, Me.	" J. T. Ward....Ashland, N. H.
" J. J. Hall....Manchester, N. H.	" H. F. Wood..Concord, "
" F. H. Harris ....Pascoag, R. I.	



## CONTRIBUTIONS

RECEIVED BY THE

## Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society,

FROM FEBRUARY 18, 1878, TO APRIL 18, 1878.

## MAINE.

Buxton, (West).....	\$8 38
Cape Elizabeth Church.....	3 97
Falmouth, Mr. S. Bell.....	1 00
" Mrs. Small.....	1 00
Lewiston, Auxiliary, Pine St. Ch for Zenana work.....	20 00
Limerick, Mr. B. Y. Sawyer.....	50
" Mrs. A. M. Davis.....	1 00
North Berwick, Auxiliary, First Ch " Mrs. V. G. Ramsey, for Girls' Boarding Hall.....	4 00
Parsonsfield East, Friends.....	5 00
" So. ".....	1 10
Portland, Auxiliary, Casco St. Ch..	2 00
Springvale Ch.....	18 00
Steep Falls, Mrs. S. H. Cousins, for Girls' Boarding Hall.....	3 71
	1 00
	\$70 66

## NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Concord, Auxiliary to cons. Mrs. H. F. Wood, L. M.....	\$26 00
Dover, Mrs. G. C. Waterman, for Girls' Boarding Hall.....	10 00
Dover, Mrs. C. Coffin Brooks, for Girls' Boarding Hall.....	25 00
Gt. Falls, Miss A. Earle.....	1 05
" Mrs. C. H. Littlefield....	1 04
New Market, Auxiliary.....	11 90
Rochester, Rev. E. True, for Girls' Boarding Hall....	50 00
	\$124 99

## VERMONT.

Royalton, Mrs. M. C. Russ for Girls' Boarding Hall....	\$1 00
South Strafford, Auxiliary, for girls at Harper's Ferry.....	9 00
Williamstown, Auxiliary.....	6 00
	\$16 00

## MASSACHUSETTS.

Hyde Park, Miss E. L. Oliver.....	\$5 00
Lowell, Auxiliary.....	32 04
Lynn, Children's Soc. for salary of Miss Phillips' .....	10 00
	\$47 04

## RHODE ISLAND.

Central Falls, Alice Briggs, for Girls' Boarding Hall.....	\$1 00
Greenville, Mission Band, for Miss Phillips' salary.....	18 00
Providence, Helping Hands, Park St. Sunday school, for Miss Phillips' salary.....	9 25
West Scituate, Mrs. L. S. Westcott \$3.00; Miss S. J. do. \$2.00; M. A. White, \$2.00.....	7 00
Mrs. J. M. Brewster for Girls' Hall.	5 00
	\$40 25

## NEW YORK.

New York, Mrs. E. W. Page, for Girls' Boarding Hall.....	\$5 00
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## NEW JERSEY.

Newark, Miss Lydia J. Remick....	\$1 04
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## OHIO,

Harmony, Q. M.....	\$15 00
Seneca & Huron, Q. M.....	13 18
	\$28 18

## MISSOURI.

Springfield, Mrs. S. L. Dittrick for Zenana teacher.....	\$13 00
Total.....	\$346 16

Miss L. A. DE MERRITTE, Treasurer.